



SWANSEA

COMMEMORATIVE POTTERY

Helen Hallesy

SWANSEA COMMEMORATIVE POTTERY

Politics • Reform • Royalty • Wars

By Helen Hallesy

A hardback book, limited edition of 300 copies, available at £38.00
Over 200 coloured illustrations

The focus of this book is on a relatively small group of wares produced at the Swansea potteries which were intended to amuse, educate, inform and sometimes persuade an ever growing middle class audience who, from the late eighteenth century showed a marked increase in education and literary skills and a participation and interest in political and social awareness. Ceramic manufacturers depended on London print shops to provide the sources from which the engravers could derive inspiration and subsequently copy; many of the Swansea designs can be traced to contemporary prints published at that time. The engravers who worked at the potteries are discussed and the sources from which they copied their designs are revealed. The difficulties of communication and travel into and out of South Wales are also examined.

The subjects examined include historic events and personages; naval and military heroes, royalty, local electioneering events, social reformers and campaigners. The unifying message was one of admiration, respect and honour and a tangible reminder of some of our nations more memorable events. By placing the subjects in their social and economic context, the characters are brought to life where Swansea is placed centrally against a backdrop of international wars, politics and reform.

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